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Shadow Minister for the Environment

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Liberals commit to a Tasmanian biochar plant

Last night at Climate Action Hobart's *Vote for the Climate* public forum I was pleased to announce that a Hodgman Liberal Government will invest in a biochar plant for Tasmania and will also invest \$120,000 a year to fund a Post Doctoral Fellowship at the University of Tasmania's Centre for Renewable Energy and Power Systems.

On election, a Hodgman Liberal Government will commit to commissioning a business case to assess the viability of a biochar plant in Tasmania. Should the business case stack up, we will partner with the private sector to build a biochar plant, which we believe will deliver a threefold benefit to Tasmania.

It is a method for carbon sequestration (long term, safe storage of carbon stored in biomass), biochar has agricultural applications including enhancing crop yield, and the pyrolysis process used to generate biochar also produces gas which can be used for carbon negative, renewable energy electricity generation. Biochar also provides a means of managing agricultural waste.

According to the CSIRO, producing biochar and bioenergy is a carbon negative process. Its high chemical stability, carbon content and potential to reside in soils for anywhere up to millennia means it is possible to use biochar as a form of carbon sink and ultimately offset carbon emissions.

A Hodgman Liberal Government will also provide \$120,000 a year to fund a Post Doctoral Fellowship at the University of Tasmania's Centre for Renewable Energy and Power Systems to assist in the facilitation of a greater understanding of the possibilities for biochar and other renewable energy sources in Tasmania.

A biochar plant and Post Doctoral Fellowship are two ways that the Tasmanian Liberals are providing positive, real change for Tasmania's renewable energy sector and reducing the state's carbon footprint.

For further information or comment please call Ella Woods-Joyce – 0418 338 774